

In re Application of: Michelson et al.  
Serial Number: 09/736,906

**Claim Amendments**

1. (Currently Amended) A Karaoke system comprising:  
a video image capturing device for capturing a video image of a Karaoke performer;  
a Karaoke medium player for retrieving audio signals and an indicia image of a song  
from a Karaoke medium, said indicia image comprising images of words of the song embedded  
in a background image;  
means for vertically downscaling the indicia image, and repositioning the vertically  
downscaled indicia image, periodically sampling an averaged background color of the indicia  
image, and removing a portion of the background image from the indicia image based on the  
averaged background color to form a modified indicia image;  
means for compositing the modified indicia image with the image of the Karaoke  
performer to provide an output video image for display on a video display.

Claim 2: Canceled.

3. (Previously Presented) A Karaoke system as in claim 1, wherein the means for  
compositing overlays the modified indicia image on the image of the Karaoke performer.

4. (Previously Presented) A Karaoke system as in claim 1, wherein the means for  
downscaling removes the background image in the indicia image completely.

5. (Original) A Karaoke system as in claim 1, wherein the means for downscaling and  
the means for compositing are implemented in a stand-alone device separate from the Karaoke  
medium player.

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6. (Original) A Karaoke system as in claim 1, wherein the means for downscaling and means for compositing are implemented as components of the Karaoke medium player.

7. (Original) A Karaoke system as in claim 6, wherein the Karaoke medium player is a compact-disk-plus-graphics (CD+G) player.

8. (Original) A Karaoke system as in claim 1, wherein the means for downscaling vertically downscales the indicia image by selectively dropping lines of the indicia image.

9. (Currently Amended) A Karaoke video image processing device comprising:  
a first video input for receiving from a Karaoke medium player an indicia image associated with a song being played back, the indicia image comprising images of words of the song embedded in a background image;

a second video input for receiving a second video image from a second external video source;

an electronic circuit having components to vertically downscale the indicia image, ~~and~~ reposition the vertically downscaled indicia image, periodically sample an averaged background color of the indicia image, remove ~~and removing~~ a portion of the background image from the indicia image based on the averaged background color to provide a modified indicia image, and ~~to~~ composite the modified indicia image with the second video image to form an output video image for display on a video display.

10. (Previously Presented) A Karaoke video image processing device as in claim 9, wherein the electronic circuit overlays the modified indicia image on the second video image to form the output video image.

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11. (Previously Presented) A Karaoke video image processing device as in claim 10, wherein the electronic circuit removes the background image in indicia image completely.

12. (Currently Amended) A Karaoke medium player comprising:  
a reader for retrieving data from a Karaoke medium, the data comprising audio data and an indicia image comprising images of words of a song embedded in a background image;  
an external video input for receiving an external video image;  
a video processing circuit having components for vertically downscaling the indicia image, and repositioning the vertically downscaled indicia image, periodically sampling an averaged background color of the indicia image, and removing a portion of the background image in the indicia image based on the averaged background color to form a modified indicia image, and combining the modified indicia image with the external video image to form an output video image for display on a video display;  
an audio processor for processing the audio data to provide an output audio signal; and  
an audio output for outputting the output audio signal.

13. (Previously Presented) A Karaoke medium player as in claim 12, wherein the video processing circuit removes the background image of the indicia image completely.

14. (Original) A Karaoke medium player as in claim 12, wherein the Karaoke medium is a compact-disk-plus-graphics (CD+G) disk.

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15. (Previously Presented) A Karaoke medium player as in claim 14, wherein the video processing circuit includes a CD+G decoder for compositing the modified indicia image with the external video image.

16. (Original) A Karaoke medium player as in claim 12, wherein the video processing circuit includes a subcode processor for receiving a stream of subcode data retrieved from the Karaoke medium representing the indicia image and modifying the subcode data to effect the downscaling and repositioning.

17. (Original) A Karaoke medium player as in claim 16, wherein the Karaoke medium is a compact-disk-plus-graphics (CD+G) disk and the video processing circuit further includes a CD+G decoder, and wherein the subcode processor sends the modified subcode data to a microprocessor interface of the CD+G decoder.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of generating video images for Karaoke applications, comprising the steps of:

capturing a video image of a Karaoke performer;

retrieving audio data and an indicia image associated with a song being performed by the Karaoke performer, the indicia image comprising images of words of the song embedded in a background image in the video data;

vertically downscaling the indicia image, and repositioning the vertically downscaled indicia image, periodically sampling an averaged background color of the indicia image, and removing a portion of the background image from the indicia image based on the averaged background color to form a modified indicia image;

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compositing the modified indicia image with the image of the Karaoke performer to form an output video image for display on a video display.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of removing removes the background image of the indicia image completely.

20. (Original) A method as in claim 18, wherein the step of downscaling reduces a vertical height of the indicia image by line dropping.